

Minutes

Downtown Decatur Neighbors

9 September 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm.

I July Minutes - Motion was made by Jim Dietz to approve as posted on the DDN website, Lila Miller seconded and approved unanimously.

II In spirit of campaign season, Tony Powers introduced himself and noted that he came to listen. John Ridley also attended and both remained to meet attendees. The DDN will host a Candidate Forum tentatively Wed. Oct. 14 at the Library. All details to be confirmed.

III Program Presenters –

- A. LeeAnn Harvey, Lifelong Decatur – created by the commission to enhance citizens’ quality of life throughout life. Their Active Living & Transportation Committees did a survey and found that 1 of the top 2 concerns is sidewalks. Active Living and the Environmental Sustainability Brd. will be doing an assessment of all sidewalks and will need volunteers. [NOTE: Lila Miller, chair of the DDN Seniors Committee serves on the Active Living Committee.]
- B. Transportation alternatives is the other concern. Lila Miller introduced Bob Carr to give us a briefing about Common Courtesy, a not-for-profit that provides safe, dependable alternative transportation. Not everyone can or wants to be car dependent. They have partner chapters that sponsor fundraising to provide for rides to locations such as doctors, and church services. Also they are the first non-profit to partner with Uber. People can also set up individualized friends and family sponsorships to pay for rides for a parent/relative/church members, whatever needed. George Dusenbury will follow up re: the costs and meaning of partnership and the board can consider. For More Information www.ccrides.org 678-809-2521.
- C. Introduction of City’s Public Works Director of Design, Environment and Construction Division, John Maxima – Wants to know our concerns about all activity related to the streets including traffic calming and crosswalks. The Comprehensive Transportation Plan is from 2007 and needs to be updated so will want our input. Members gave him a briefing on their main concerns:
 - Crosswalks were the top concern of the DDN informal web/Facebook survey of downtown residents.
 - Are there criteria for mid-block crossing? We are still waiting on the return of a 315/335 W Ponce crosswalk that was committed to be coming but how long?

- Want automated crosswalks like Agnes Scott – expensive – Could they be phased in?
 - City will be fixing crosswalks where the red brick-like material is breaking up.
 - Suggestion given to check out Seattle’s cross walk flag system and the HAWK light.
 - Smoothing sidewalk cracks – it’s hard to maneuver with wheelchair; a pedestrian tripped and fell at recent festival.
 - There was interest in who owns roads and sidewalks? Depends on where the ROW is but either the city or the state.
 - City is working with the state to do the Scott/Coventry improvement.
- D. Program Activity – The DDN survey showed that downtown residents are concerned about the need for and functioning of our downtown Crosswalks, in keeping with the goals of walkability and pedestrian safety. Members assembled in small groups to explore the crosswalk needs in various areas of the downtown using maps of the downtown area. Lively discussions and many suggestions were produced. The Board will compile all of the suggestions and a master map to be presented at our next membership meeting in Nov, and then to the City Commission. The Active Living’s Pedestrian Committee will add our priorities to their recommendations of where money should be allocated.

IV Wrap Up – Candidate Forum tentative October 14. DDN will advertise final arrangements. Next meeting Wed. November 11, 7:00 pm. Rec Center.

Submitted by Kathie Gannon, Secretary.